

MICHAEL C. BURGESS, M.D.
26TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1721 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-7772
www.house.gov/burgess

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4326

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January 11, 2006

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to support a letter from Governor Rick Perry dated January 10, 2006, requesting that you grant a major disaster declaration, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5206 (Stafford Act), for all 254 Texas counties due to ongoing and future wildfire threat.

As you know, Texas is undergoing severe drought conditions compounded by unusually high temperatures this winter and high winds. The entire state has been significantly impacted by wildfires and continued fire risk. According to weather experts, the current weather pattern that is exacerbating this situation is expected to worsen over the next two to three months. With over a quarter of a million acres lost to wildfire, Texans need assistance in recovering personal property and more material support to effectively fight these fires.

North Texas, the area of the state I represent, has been especially impacted by these wildfires. The loss of life and property has been tragic, but the heroism of our emergency response personnel has been one bright spot in this situation. I respectfully ask that you give these agencies more tools to protect life and property by making a major disaster declaration for all 254 Texas counties.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1660 SOUTH STEMMONS FREEWAY
SUITE 230
LEWISVILLE, TX 75067
(972) 434-9700

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1100 CIRCLE DRIVE
SUITE 200
FORT WORTH, TX 76119
(817) 531-8454